

INSERTER FOR MINIMALLY INVASIVE JOINT SURGERY

Abstract of the Invention

An acetabular inserter (10, 10', 10'') aids a surgeon in controlling the installation of an acetabular cup prosthesis (11) having a central, female aperture (13). The inserter includes a head (20), a housing (12, 12', 12'') and a locking mechanism (44, 50, 52, 54, 56, 60, 62, 67, 68; 124, 130, 142, 146, 180, 193, 194, 195, 196, 200, 202, 206, 210, 212, 14). The housing (12, 12', 12'') is attached to the head, the housing enclosing a drive train (14, 14', 14'') having, at a far end (134), a prosthesis engaging thread (124), and at the opposite end (42'), a handle (20, 20', 20'') which facilitates turning of the drive train by the operator. The locking mechanism is associated with the housing which selectively locks the drive train, and thus the prosthesis, in position. The opposite end (42') of the drive train has a latch device (52, 54, 56, 60, 62; 44, 50; 180) which enables quick removal from the housing for cleaning and sterilization.

1. An acetabular inserter for installing an acetabular cup prosthesis, comprising:
a head;
a housing attached to the head, the housing enclosing a drive train;
a handle attached to the drive train at one end, the handle facilitating turning of the drive train by the operator;
a locking mechanism associated with the housing, the locking mechanism selectively locking the drive train, and thus the prosthesis, in position;
a latch device attached to the drive train at the opposite end of the handle, the latch device enabling quick removal from the housing for cleaning and sterilization.

2. The inserter of claim 1, wherein the drive train includes a central shaft having a proximal end and a distal end, the proximal end being connected to the handle and the distal end being connected to the latch device.